

PETROLEUM PRODUCT AGENCIES:

A special scheme for direct allotment of 500 oil product agencies to the next of kin of those killed in Kargil operation was announced. Under this scheme applications from 425 widows/next of kin have been received. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have approved allotment of oil product agencies in 281 cases. The remaining 144 cases are in the process.

HOUSES BY THE DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Delhi Development Authority have formulated a scheme named 'Vijayee Veer Awas Yojna' in New Delhi for providing dwelling units for the families of officers and jawans killed in operation and to those disabled. Under this scheme 134 flats have already been allotted.

Purchase of Hovercrafts for Navy

1869. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase Hovercrafts for Coast Guards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government have approved procurement of 6 Hovercrafts for the Coast Guard at a cost of Rs. 49.17 crores on 6th April, 1999. These Hovercrafts are to be supplied by M/s GRSE, Calcutta. The first Hovercraft is likely to be delivered by the end of August, 2000. The deliveries of the remaining 5 Hovercrafts are scheduled to be made in a phased manner and completed by January, 2002. The Hovercrafts are to be deployed in shallow waters for keeping surveillance in the areas to prevent poaching, smuggling, etc. by undesirable elements.